February 20, 1995

Dear Mineral King Cabin Owner,

Our brothers, Jim and Dick Whitney, permit holders of record for Mineral King Cabin #20, died in an accident in February, 1992. Since the cabin permit cannot under current law be passed down to their heirs, we have received an eviction notice (see enclosed). It tells us to vacate the premises by December 31, 1995. As one of the first Mineral King families to receive such a notice, we feel we should bring it to the attention of all cabin permit holders who may eventually be affected. This is a test case, and we must do all in our power to prevent a takeover by the National Park Service. We believe a takeover would be unfair and unjust.

The Whitney family has spent 70 wonderful summers at Mineral King. This beautiful place was a part of our parents; it's a part of us; it's a part of our children and our grandchildren. We've also shared our cabin with several other families over the years. When we suddenly lost our younger brothers, both of whom were in excellent health, we suddenly had also to face the loss of this tradition -- long before we thought possible. Like you, we had always hoped that the laws might change before we had to face eviction.

In hopes of saving our cabin, we have been considering many arguments and noting the inequities involved in evicting selected families. Since almost all of the Mineral King cabins are still held by their permit holders, we feel we should be allowed to have continued use of our cabin. The in-holders at Silver City are allowed to pass cabins on to their heirs. Like other MK cabin owners, we have always maintained an amicable relationship with the Park Service and complied with their wishes. Our appreciation of the natural surroundings has been reflected in our care and maintenance of the area. We feel that cabin owners are as compatible as other responsible users of the area.

Is there a ray of hope on the horizon? The Mineral King Legislative Action Committee continues to work with our representatives in Congress, supporting the MK District Association's efforts to change the laws regarding eviction. Ruth Shepherd, coordinator for the Action Committee, has made appointments this spring with interested congressmen in Washington DC to pursue our continuing efforts. Steps are also being made toward a listing in the National Register of Historic Places (see enclosed pamphlet from the Mineral King Preservation Society).

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Some arguments against eviction include possible negative impacts: 1) the loss of revenue to the National Park Service and the U.S. Government (permit fees and property taxes); 2) the expenditures involved in returning the land under the cabin to its natural state; 3) the possible release of toxic waste during removal of effluent from the septic system.

The current Republican Congress might be amenable to a change in the law, since Republicans traditionally favor private property owners' rights over government spending to expand the public domain.

Many of you are already aware of our situation and may have thoughts, ideas, or updated information to add. We would be very grateful for any ideas or information you can offer.

The precedent set regarding our eviction notice may have a direct bearing on the future of all the cabins in the Mineral King district. So whatever support you can give to those groups working to preserve Mineral King will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ruth Whitney Breeze & Jean Whitney Voorhees

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